

Community Assistantship Program

Milan Preservation Project

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Prepared in partnership with
City of Milan

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Colleen Borgendale
CAP Final Report

As the semester wraps up, so does my project with the city of Milan, Minnesota. This semester, I have been working on adding narration to many hours of film taken by a lifetime resident of Milan, Billy Thompson. I have reviewed the videos with Billy to record him identifying people, places, events, dates, etc. that we will add to the videos at a later time. I have also taken the names of some of the people for the film, contacted them and done an oral history with them. These oral histories usually last about an hour and a half to two hours in length. During these oral histories, I have, what I like to call a conversation with the interviewee, which I record. I generally go into these conversations or interviews with a few questions that I have written up beforehand to start out the conversation and then usually just let the person go. I try to talk as little as possible and just let the person tell me his or her story. These stories include his or her role in the event(s) documented by Billy, growing up or his or her involvement in Milan (since not everyone I've interviewed is a lifetime resident), how Milan has changed and whatever else might come up. There is still much to be done, but we are now ready to work on the completion of the whole project. My part with this job, accumulating narration, has been finished with much success. Thank you for your support in this project.